BOB HANEY & NEAL ADAMS

DEADMAN

SEPT. 1985
NO. 5

I WANTED BATMAN TO FIND MY KILLER--

--BUT, INSTEAD, I'M CAUSING HIS DEATH!

HOW MIGHTILY YOU SCREAMED YOUR ANGUISH WHEN YOU THOUGHT TINY WAS DEAD. HE HAD TAKEN YOUR PLACE TO CATCH YOUR MURDERER, THE "HOOK," BUT ALL HE "CAUGHT" WAS A BULLET... A BULLET MEANT *FOR YOU!* IS THIS SWIRLING MIASMA YOUR PUNISHMENT FOR ALLOWING TINY TO BE SHOT IN YOUR STEAD? NO? THEN COULD IT BE YOU'RE HERE AS A RESULT OF THOSE WORDS SPOKEN MOMENTS AFTER TINY'S BODY WAS FOUND.....

REMEMBER...

HEY, I FEEL A HEART BEAT! TINY'S NOT DEAD... *YET...*

NOT DEAD ...*YET*... YES, THOSE WORDS ARE THE ONES THAT BROUGHT YOU HERE...

DEADMAN

COME BACK TO LIFE!

NEAL ADAMS

SCRIPT AND ART

G-1831

TEAR YOUR WAY THROUGH THOSE PRO-TECTIVE LAYERS OF UNCONSCIOUS-NESS! HURRY! HURRY!... FASTER THAN THAT AMBULANCE ATTENDANT WHO TOOK TINY TO THE HOSPITAL...

HURRY, *HURRY, YOU FOOL!* CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S *DYING?*

PLEASE HURRY!

GOIN' AS FAST AS I CAN, LADY! DON'T WANT TO KILL HIM BEFORE THE DOCTOR GETS TO HIM.

YOU FEEL ALMOST PHYSICAL PAIN AT THE PUMMELING OF THE HALF-FORGOTTEN MEMORIES THIS ALIEN ENVIRON-MENT HURLS INTO YOUR PATH. STILL, YOUR JOB SEEMS HARDLY AS DIFFICULT AS WAS THE DOCTOR'S WHO WORKED ON TINY...

NURSE, PLACE THAT CLAMP AND THEN GET OUT A CALL TO DR. CLATE.

WHAT A MESS!

YOU DIS-COVERED THE NEW DOCTOR WAS A HEART SURGEON... AND NOT AN OPTIMISTIC ONE. NO MORE ENCOURAGING THAN THESE MISDIRECTED WISPS OF IMAGINATION WHICH NOW BLOCK YOUR WAY...

YOU REALIZE, DR. SHASTI, THAT THIS MAN SHOULD BE DEAD!

TRUE! HIS CONTINUED SURVIVAL AMAZES ME AS DOES YOUR SURGICAL SKILL, DOCTOR.

NURSE... BECKMAN RETRACTOR!

LET ME CLOSE THAT ARTERY OFF!

AS YOU HURL YOURSELF AGAINST THE FANTASTIC BARRIER OF MISDIRECTED IMAGININGS, YOU RECALL YOUR FUTILITY AS DR. SHASTI SPOKE TO THE CIRCUS PEOPLE AFTER TINY'S OPERATION...

ALTHOUGH YOUR MR. TINY IS OF A GREAT PHYSICAL CONSTITUTION, HE IS IN SUCH DEEP SHOCK THAT HE CANNOT UTILIZE HIS ***WILL TO SURVIVE!***

YOU TRIED, DOC! YOU TRIED!

I'M AFRAID THAT IT IS BUT A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WE LOSE HIM.

BUT ***I'M*** THE ONE THAT FAILED TINY.'

THE ***FATAL*** FAILURE OF A DEAD-MAN... WHAT CRUEL JUSTICE HAVE I BECOME A TOOL OF...

LATER, AT TINY'S BEDSIDE YOUR REVERIE WAS INTERRUPTED.

SORRY, SIR, YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE. NO ONE IS ALLOWED IN HERE.

WHA...?

DON'T DIE, TINY! DON'T DIE!

VASHNU!

I HAVE COME TO PRAY FOR MY FRIEND! IF I STAND HERE IN SILENT MEDITATION CAN I HARM HIM, DR. SHASTI?

NO... BUT CAN YOU HELP HIM...YOU! VASHNU OF KARDONA?

SINCE YOU ARE NOT ONLY A COUNTRYMAN OF MINE, BUT SEEM ALSO TO HAVE HEARD OF ME, I WONDER THAT YOU SHOULD ASK ME THAT QUESTION.

YOU KNOW THAT RAMA KUSHNA SEEKS ONLY TO BALANCE THE GOOD IN NATURE!

AND...?

AND PERHAPS WITH THE HELP OF RAMA KUSHNA, SOME FRIENDLY SPIRIT WILL HELP TIP THE BALANCE IN FAVOR OF THIS HARSHLY DEALT WITH MAN!

FRIENDLY SPIRIT? SAY ...IF I COULD GET INTO TINY'S...

SO YOU'VE BURROWED YOUR WAY INTO TINY'S MIND AND FINALLY LOCATED HIS ID, HIS PERSONALITY, THE PART THAT IS THE ESSENCE OF TINY...

C'MON, TINY. A SPARK... ANYTHING...YOU GOTTA ***FIGHT!*** YOU ***GOTTA FIGHT FOR IT!***

UHHHHHH!

BY THE GREATNESS OF RAMA KUSHNA, HE'S FIGHTING! HE'S ON TOP OF IT! I'LL CHECK HIM OUT, BUT UNLESS I'M MISTAKEN, HE'S GOING TO PULL THROUGH!

NOW, HOURS LATER, TINY IS GREATLY IMPROVED AND DR. SHASTI IS MAKING AN URGENT PHONE CALL...

HE'LL RECOVER AND VASHNU OR SOME ***GHOST*** IS RESPONSIBLE!

THAT'S RIGHT. VASHNU WAS AN HONORED SEER IN MY COUNTRY. WHY HE IS HERE, I DON'T KNOW. YOU MUST MEET HIM!

NOW THAT TINY IS ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY, DEADMAN, YOU'RE ABOUT TO LEAVE HIS ROOM AND PICK UP YOUR HUNT FOR THE ***HOOK***...WHERE IT LEFT OFF! SUDDENLY...

VASHNU HAS LEFT, BUT, GENTLEMEN, THERE IS THE RESULT OF HIS WORK!

IF WE COULD BRING VASHNU BEFORE THE BOARD I'M SURE THEY'D AWARD US THE GRANT!

YOUR ENTHUSIASM IS ADMIRABLE, DR. SHASTI BUT A ***ONE AND A HALF MILLION DOLLAR GRANT*** FOR ***PSYCHIC RESEARCH*** COULD HARDLY BE GIVEN ON THIS KIND OF EVIDENCE.

TRUE, IT'S NOT AN OVERLY ***DRAMATIC*** EVENT, BUT...

OF COURSE, OF COURSE, GENTLEMEN, AND FORGIVE MY OVER-ENTHUSIASM.

DR. SHASTI, PLEASE HAVE FAITH. I'M SURE ***MADAM PEGEEN'S*** DEMONSTRATION TONIGHT WILL CONVINCE THE BOARD OF THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR RESEARCH. THAT, AND ***YOUR REPUTATION*** WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO GET THE GRANT!

MADAM PEGEEN? WHAT KIND OF BAG HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO, DR. SHASTI? SOUNDS WEIRD!

AS DR. SHASTI'S VISITORS TAKE THEIR LEAVE...

HI, DAD! I CAME DOWN TO WALK YOU HOME!

OH... HI, SON... I HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU BUT...

...BUT YOU'RE GONNA WORK ***LATE... RESEARCH... YOU UNDERSTAND ...RIGHT, SON?***

WELL, I ***DON'T UNDERSTAND!*** I MIGHT AS WELL NOT HAVE A FATHER, LITTLE AS I SEE YOU!

THE WORK'S IMPORTANT, SAMMY!

SAMMY... SON!

THE MAN'S REALLY HUNG UP ON THIS GHOST CHASING BIT!

HOURS LATER, YOUR CURIOSITY HAS LED YOU TO MADAM PEGEEN'S ALONG WITH DR. SHASTI AND THE BOARD'S DIRECTORS...

COME IN, GENTLEMEN. MADAM PEGEEN HAS BEEN PREPARING HERSELF. HER POWERS ARE AT THEIR FULLEST.

COOL!

DID YOU EVER CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF OTHER GHOSTS, DEADMAN? PERHAPS YOU ARE ABOUT TO MEET ONE OR TWO...

I MERELY REQUIRE SILENCE AND A SMALL AMOUNT OF CONCENTRATION, GENTLEMEN!

I'M ALL EARS, BABY!

HEAR ME, OH SPIRITS! SEND OUT THE CALL! LET THOSE WHO CARE, HEARKEN TO ME! THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD SPEAK TO YOU!

WE SEE YOU. WE HEAR YOU THROUGH THE VEIL. COME TO US. MAKE YOUR PRESENCE KNOWN.

SHE SURE PUTS ON SOME ACT. WE COULD HAVE USED HER AT THE CIRC... WAIT A MINUTE... WHAT'S THAT?

H-HOLY JUMPIN'... WHERE IN BLUE-BLOODED BLAZES DID THAT COME FROM?

DIANE?

WALT! YOU KNOW...THAT... YOU RECOG-NIZE THAT... HER... WHATEVER IT IS?

RECOGNIZE HER? ***RECOGNIZE HER?*** SHE'S MY SISTER, OR AT LEAST SHE WAS. SHE, HER HORSE AND HER DOG WERE KILLED IN AN AVALANCHE DURING A HUNTING PARTY!

DIANE! CAN YOU SPEAK TO ME?

YES, WALLY, I CAN SPEAK TO YOU FOR A SHORT TIME. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW?

DIANE... I DON'T KNOW... I'M AT A LOSS FOR WORDS. HOW... HOW DO YOU FEEL?

I FEEL FINE, WALLY. WHY SHOULDN'T I?

I GOTTA FIND OUT ABOUT THIS!

MY HAND WENT RIGHT THROUGH HER LIKE SHE WAS A GHOST... BUT... BUT I'M A GHOST. STILL, SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE AFFECTED BY MY TOUCH!

AND PEOPLE... *LIVE PEOPLE FREEZE* AT YOUR ***COLD TOUCH***... DON'T THEY, DEADMAN?

OF COURSE... OF COURSE... YOU LOOK... GREAT. CAN YOU TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT WHERE YOU ARE?...

SURE, WALLY. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT I MUST TELL YOU! THERE'S AN EVIL SPIRIT IN THIS ROOM. IT DOESN'T WANT ME TO TALK ANY MORE. I'M FIGHT-ING IT, BUT IT'S A VERY STRONG SPIRIT!

THIS IS MADNESS! I'M BEGINNING TO BELIEVE THIS MUMBO JUMBO.

BUT I SEE IT WITH MY OWN DEAD EYES... ***NO...*** IT MUST BE A FAKE!... BUT IF THAT WERE A ***REAL*** PERSON I'D BE ABLE TO IMMOBILIZE HER AND TAKE OVER HER BODY!

THIS IS TOO CONFUSING. GOT TO PUT A STOP TO THIS SO I CAN COLLECT MY THOUGHTS, SOMEHOW.

I DON'T KNOW... THE SPIRIT IS SO STRONG. IF YOU COULD SOMEHOW...

GOTTA STOP THIS. GOTTA HAVE TIME TO THINK! THAT GUY NEXT TO THE FUSE BOX...

DIANE... CAN WE DO ANY-THING TO HELP?

THAT OUGHT TO STOP SOMETHING!

EEEEEEEEE!

CRACKLE

MOMENTS LATER, ONE OF MADAM PEGEEN'S MEN TURNS THE LIGHTS BACK ON...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MADAM PEGEEN? YOU SCREAMED AND FAINTED WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT.

YES! A BIT SHAKEN UP, BUT THAT'S ALL.

I'D SAY WE'RE ALL A BIT SHAKEN UP. THIS HAS BEEN A RATHER UNNERVING EXPERIENCE. IF YOU DON'T MIND I THINK WE'D LIKE TO GO HOME AND CONSIDER THE SITUATION.

OF COURSE, GENTLEMEN!

NOW TO SEE IF I CAN DIG UP SOMETHING BESIDES GHOSTS.

MAN, GET A LOAD OF THESE DOORS! THEY GOTTA BE HIDIN' SOMETHING BIG!

...FORTUNATELY I DON'T NEED THE KEY TO FIND OUT WHAT!

HEY YOU, GET YOUR HAIRY PAWS OFF ME... I'VE COME TO SEE MY FATHER!

HUH...? THAT SOUNDS LIKE DOC SHASTI'S KID!

OW!

I TOLD YOU TO LET GO OF ME!

SAMMY!... SON... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I THOUGHT YOU WENT HOME.

I...I FOLLOWED YOU HERE..BUT WHEN THE OTHER DOCTORS LEFT, AND YOU DIDN'T...I...I ...GOT WORRIED! ARE YOU COMING HOME NOW?

ALL RIGHT, SON. I BELIEVE I WILL COME HOME.

BUT...BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D STAY, AND TALK LONGER... ABOUT THE GRANT.

I'M AFRAID WHAT I HAVE TO SAY WON'T PLEASE YOU, MADAM PEGEEN, BUT THE DEMONSTRATION TONIGHT CONVINCED ME THAT I'M NOT EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH THESE MATTERS...I'M SORRY!

I THEREFORE FEAR I MUST WITHDRAW MY SUPPORT OF THIS PROJECT, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY!

WELL, THAT'S THAT! NOW I CAN GET BACK AND TAKE A A LOOK AT THAT DOOR AGAIN!

ONE MOMENT, DOCTOR!

YOUR SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL, DOCTOR... WE ***MUST*** RECEIVE THE GRANT! NOW I'M FORCED TO REVEAL TO YOU SOMETHING I HOPED I COULD PROTECT YOU FROM! ***PLEASE***... COME WITH ME!

THIS HOUSE WAS BUILT ON THE ***VERY SPOT*** ON WHICH A DOOR TO THE SPIRIT WORLD HAS ***FOREVER*** BEEN LOCATED. THAT IS WHY MY ABILITY TO CONTACT THE ***OTHER WORLD*** IS SO EASILY COME BY!

YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN IN THIS MYSTIC ROOM, DR. SHASTI, IT REPRESENTS OUR SYMBOLIC PROTECTION FROM WHAT NEXT YOU WILL SEE!

BUNK!

THESE ARE THE DOORS TO THE **SPIRIT WORLD!** ACTUAL DOORS OF THIS WORLD THAT CONCEAL THE BARRIER YOU MUST PASS **THROUGH,** DR. SHASTI! AND PASS YOU MUST!

HAH... LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOING TO GET INSIDE BEFORE I DO.., O.K., DOC...AFTER YOU!

WAIT! YOU CAN'T!...

YOU MUST LEARN, DR. SHASTI! YOU **MUST**!

KA-HUNG

WELL, WELL... ISN'T MADAM PEGEEN TURNING OUT TO BE MISS GOODIE-TWO-SHOES OF 1968!

DAD! I'M AFRAID!

YOU AND ME BOTH, SON! LET'S SEE WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE!

GET BACK!

KRAK K-TAK K-RAK-LE

THIS IS **REAL** ENOUGH! THERE'S ENOUGH ELECTRICITY HERE TO **KILL** ANYONE WHO'S UNFORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BE ALIVE!

IT CAN'T BE! I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

DR. SHASTI, MAN OF LITTLE FAITH! HOW CAN YOU DENY THE SPIRIT WORLD?

HOW CAN YOU DENY THE EVIDENCE OF YOUR OWN EYES? HOW MUST YOU BE PUNISHED FOR NOT SUPPORTING THE CAUSE?

WHAT CAUSE!? WHAT CAUSE ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

MADAM PEGEEN'S CAUSE! THE CAUSE OF PUTTING TO REST THE SOULS YOU SEE AROUND YOU!

SOMETHING'S FISHY AROUND HERE! I GOTTA SEE IF I CAN FIND... AHA!

LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T *SHAKE* THE *SHOCK* OUT OF YOUR POP, SAMMY, BOY! FIRST WE'LL NEED THAT CROWBAR...

THIS WILL SHORT OUT THOSE "MYSTIC LIGHTNING BOLTS"!

BETTER GET BACK, POP! THERE'S GONNA BE FIREWORKS!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?... THAT WON'T HELP!

*WITH GREAT SOUND AND FURY THE CROWBAR DESCENDS UPON THE **MYSTICAL** LIGHTNING... CAUSING A VERY **REAL SHORT CIRCUIT...***

G-ZAK

YAA-HOOO!

THAT'S WHAT I CALL A *FREAK-OUT,* POP!

LET'S GO, POP! 'BOUT TIME WE FOUND OUT WHAT MAKES EVIL SPIRITS TICK!

SON, DON'T GO IN THERE! *COME BACK*...THERE IS *GREAT DANGER!*

BRIP

FROM WHAT, POP?...THESE REJECTS FROM "LOST IN SPACE"? ...AND LOOK AT THE FLIMSY MATERIAL!

CRASH

C'MON, POP! LEND A HAND! THIS IS A COOL SCENE!

INFANTINO & GIORDANO MOVIE PROP CO. INC.

PROPS! PAPER DUMMIES! MOVIE MONSTERS! WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN! HA-HA-HA! WHAT A FOOL...HA-**HA-HA!**

SAVE SOME FOR ME, SON! SAVE SOME FOR ME!

THAT'S ENOUGH, DR. SHASTI! YOUR CHILDISH DISPLAY HAS PLACED YOU IN GRAVE DANGER!

YOU REALIZE THAT YOU AND YOUR SON MUST REMAIN UNDER GUARD, UNTIL THE BOARD AWARDS US THE GRANT!

I HUMBLY ADVISE AGAINST THAT COURSE OF ACTION. YOU SEE, BEFORE I BECAME INVOLVED IN THIS FARCE, I HAD JUST COMPLETED MY SON'S TRAINING FOR BLACK BELT IN JUDO, MYSELF BEING A FOURTH DAN!

BROTHHHER... I'M NOT NEEDED HERE ANY LONGER!

NO MUMBO-JUMBO DOUBLE TALK ABOUT WHAT COLOR BELTS YOU'RE WEARING WILL HELP, DR. SHASTI! TAKE THEM TO THE BASEMENT, BOYS!

ARE YOU PREPARED, SON?

I... OH ... SURE, POP!

FIRST AND FOURTH BLACK BELT? I THINK I'LL CLOSE MY EYES FOR THIS ONE. THERE'S GOING TO BE TOO MUCH VIOLENCE FOR A SENSITIVE TYPE LIKE ME!

ENTERING MADAM PEGEEN'S BODY, DEADMAN MAKES AN URGENT PHONE CALL...

THAT'S RIGHT, SERGEANT. THERE ARE THREE MEN ASSAULTING A DR. SHASTI AND HIS SON ON MY PREMISES! IT'S ***TERRIBLE!***

THAT'S RIGHT! MY HOUSE IS LOCATED RIGHT NEXT TO THE OLD MOVIE WARE-HOUSE ON FRONT STREET.

ME? WHY, I OPERATE A ***FRAUDULENT FORTUNE TELLING ESTABLISHMENT!***

GOODBYE, SERGEANT... AND... THANK **YOU!**

MAN, DID YOU SEE THAT CLOSED-CIRCUIT TV RIG IN THE LIVING ROOM? WHAT A SET-UP FOR A CON!

YOU CAN PREFER CHARGES IN THE MORNING, DOC. WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO PIN SOMETHING ON THIS GROUP FOR SOME TIME.

WOULD YOU LIKE A LIFT HOME?

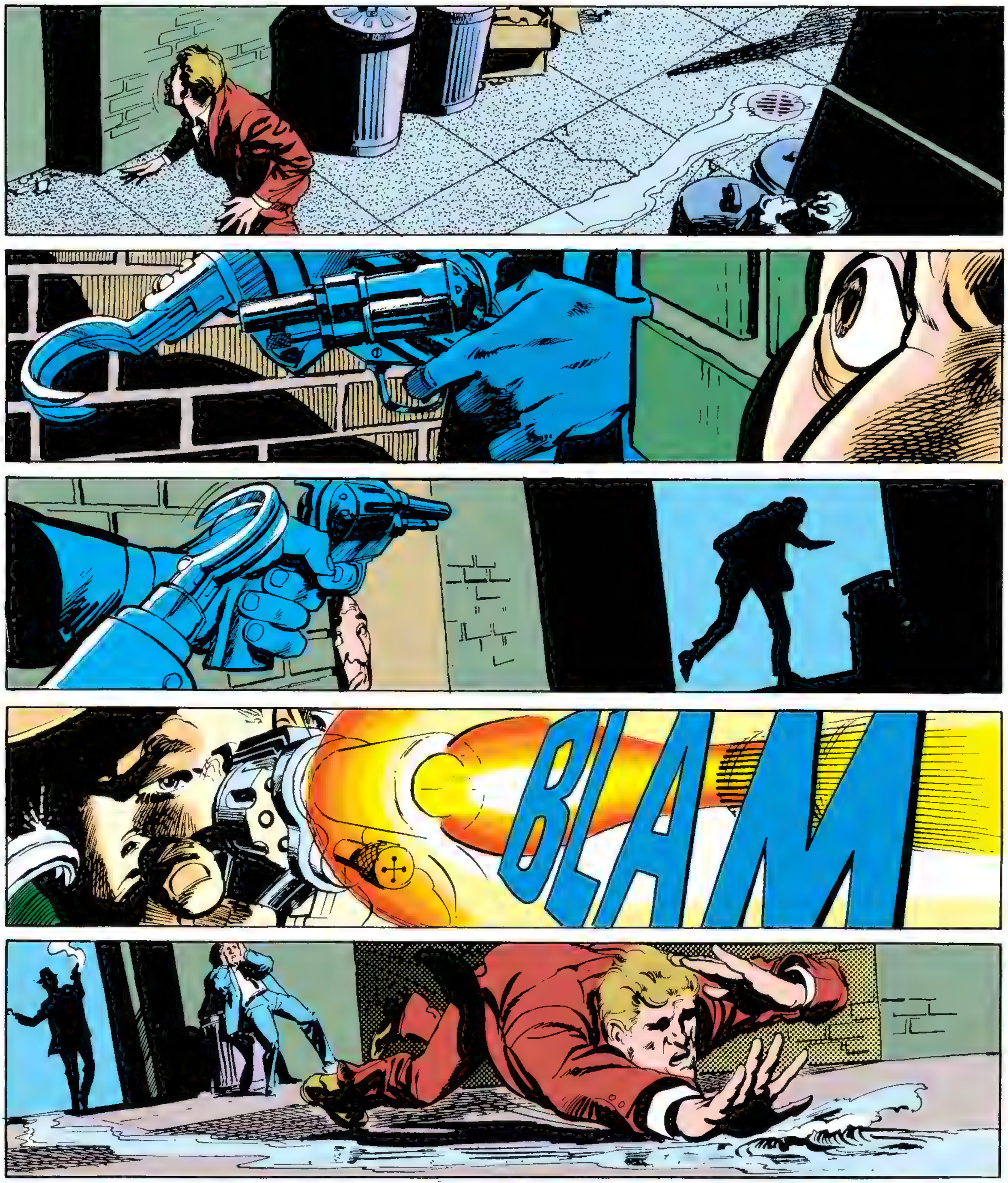
NO, THANK YOU, SERGEANT. MY SON AND I WILL WALK. WE HAVE A LOT OF TALKING TO CATCH UP ON!

BUT WHO CAN I TALK TO, NOW THAT THE HOOK'S TRAIL HAS GONE COLD AGAIN?

COUNT YOUR **MINUTES**, HOOK! WITHIN ONE OF THEM... **SOON**...YOU'LL FIND A **DEADMAN WAITING!!**

THE END

THE TRACK OF THE HOOK



BOB HANEY ——— STORY
NEAL ADAMS ——— ART

BATMAN & DEADMAN

RECOGNIZE HIM, BATMAN?

HE'S WHITEY MARSH, COMMISSIONER... SMALL-TIME DRIFTER AND JACK-OF-ALL-RACKETS! NO CONNECTION BETWEEN HIM AND THE BIG CRIME SYNDICATE WE'RE AFTER... JUST A ROUTINE RUB-OUT!

NO, BATMAN! DON'T SAY THAT--! NO MURDER IS EVER ROUTINE! EVERY LIFE COUNTS... MEANS SOMETHING! EVERY KILLING'S GOTTA BE AVENGED! IT HAS TO! BELIEVE ME... TAKE THE WORD OF A DEADMAN!!

PD 643

DEADMAN! THAT INCREDIBLE GHOST WHO STALKS THE LIVING WORLD, UNSEEN, UNHEARD, SEARCHING FOR HIS OWN KILLER! WHAT BRINGS HIM TO GOTHAM CITY? FOLLOW... WITH US INTO THE DEEPENING MYSTERY TO COME... BRAVE AND BOLD ONES...

SUDDENLY...

UH-OH! HERE COMES TROUBLE! IT'S "KUBLA" KAINE AND TWO OF HIS PHOTOGRAPHERS!

ANOTHER MURDER, COMMITTED BY THE SYNDICATE, I SEE! SO THE CRIME WAVE GROWS, EH? WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING ABOUT IT?

KEEP CLEAR OF THAT BODY! THIS IS POLICE BUSINESS!

DON'T BE A FOOL, GORDON! THEY'RE ***PRESS***, AND HAVE EVERY RIGHT!

LISTEN, CARLETON K. KAINE--YOU MAY BE ROTTEN RICH AND OWN EVERY NEWSPAPER IN TOWN--BUT YOU DON'T OWN THE POLICE FORCE, SO GET BACK!

YOU'RE A PUBLIC SERVANT, GORDON... ANSWERABLE TO ANY CITIZEN! AND YOU, ***BATMAN,*** WHY HAVEN'T YOU DISCOVERED THE IDENTITY OF THE CRIME SYNDICATE'S MYSTERY LEADER... ***"THE KING"?***

I'M PRETTY SURE I HAVE! "THE KING," AS YOUR PAPERS NICKNAMED HIM, MUST BE JACK LE SABRE!

LE SABRE? I COULDN'T DISAGREE MORE! IT'S GOT TO BE ***BIG JIM COLTRANE!*** MY MEN ARE PICKING UP HIS TRAIL RIGHT NOW!

BIG JIM?? HE HASN'T THE BRAINS OR IMAGINATION TO RUN AN OPERATION LIKE THE SYNDICATE! ONLY LE SABRE COULD HAVE BUILT SO CUNNING A CRIME WEB!

THIS IS JUST ***GREAT!*** ... WHILE YOU TWO DEBATE, THE WHOLE OF GOTHAM CITY IS BEING CHOKED BY THIS EVIL COMBINE! DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, FAST! OR YOU'LL FORCE ME TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT ***BOTH*** OF YOU! AND YOU ***KNOW*** I HAVE THE POWER TO DO IT!

SUDDENLY, FROM THE SHADOWS...

EXCUSE ME... I SAW THE MURDER!

WHAT? A WITNESS!

MY NAME IS EDWARD T. WEEKS!... I SAW IT ALL! THE KILLER... HAD A FALSE HAND... A *HOOK!*

BY THE POWER OF RAMA KUSHNA! *HOOK!* HE'S *HERE!* WHAT LUCK!

I CAME TO GOTHAM TO GET *BATMAN,* THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE, TO HELP ME FIND MY KILLER, BOSTON BRAND'S MURDERER, AND NOW THAT KILLER'S *HERE!*

THERE IT IS... POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION! EVEN YOU TWO SHOULD BE ABLE TO TRACK DOWN A MAN WITH A... *HOOK!*

RELAX, KAINE! GORDON WILL FIND WHITEY MARSH'S MURDERER! I CHECKED MARSH OUT... HE HAD NO CONNECTION WITH THE SYNDICATE!

NOW I'M GOING AFTER "THE KING"! KEEP YOUR PRESSES PRIMED... I'LL GIVE YOU HEADLINES A MILE HIGH!

WITH HIS UNIQUE POWER TO "LIVE" IN OTHERS, *DEADMAN* ENTERS THE STRANGER'S BODY, AND SPEAKS...

HEY! BATMAN'S CHUCKED THE CASE, IGNORING *HOOK!* IS THIS *DEADMAN'S* LUCK? IS THIS MY ROTTEN FATE KICKING ME AGAIN?

BATMAN! STOP!

BUT OF COURSE, DEADMAN'S ANGUISHED CRY CANNOT BE HEARD BY MORTAL EARS...

THAT PASSING GUY... GOTTA BORROW HIM!

HOLD IT, BATMAN!

I'M... ER... EDDIE MARSH, WHITEY'S BROTHER! I'M ASKIN' YOU TO TAKE THE CASE! WHITEY MAYBE WAS A WRONG PUNK-- BUT HIS KILLIN' NEEDS SOLVIN'!

HUH?

HIS DEATH NEEDS AVENGIN'! ANYBODY'S DOES! YOU HEAR ME?

WHAT'S YOUR GAME, MISTER? WHITEY HAD NO BROTHER! JUST WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY? TALK!

SO I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU TO TAKE MY CASE, NOT IMPORTANT ENOUGH, HUH?

UUNHH!

SNOK

I'LL MAKE YOU TAKE MY CASE! MAKE YOU FIND MY KILLER!

IN DEADMAN'S ENRAGED, BORROWED BRAIN, THE MURDERS OF WHITEY MARSH AND BOSTON BRAND BECOME ONE!

OOOF! HE'S FLIPPED... BUT HE HITS LIKE A TON OF BRICKS! GOT TO DEFEND HIMSELF!

WHAM

WHUMP

OH-OH! I BLEW MY STACK AND I'M GETTING THIS POOR GUY CLOBBERED! GOTTA EXIT FAST!

HE'S COLLAPSED! BUT I DIDN'T HIT HIM THAT HARD! WHAT GIVES??

I GIVE, BAT GUY! BUT THEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHO DEADMAN IS! NOBODY DOES... BLAST THE LUCK!

WH-WHAT HAPPENED? **BATMAN**... YOU CREAMED ME...

JUST A MINUTE, FELLA! YOU SWUNG ON ME FIRST... BELTED ME GOOD!

WHO ARE YOU KIDDIN'? I'M BILL RAWLS, A LAW-ABIDIN' CITIZEN!

POLICE! POLICE!

KAINE! GORDON! OF ALL THE LUCK!

BATMAN BEAT ME UP!

GET THIS PICTURE, BOYS!

AS FLASHBULBS EXPLODE IN **BATMAN'S** ALREADY BAFFLED BRAIN...

SKASH

SEE THAT, GORDON? I DEMAND YOU ARREST HIM FOR ASSAULT AND INTERFERING WITH THE PRESS!

SORRY, **BATMAN,** BUT---

DON'T PLAY "KUBLA" KAINE'S GAME, COMMISSIONER! I WAS FRAMED! BESIDES, I'VE GOT TO GET TO JACK LE SABRE -- "THE KING"!-- BEFORE HE BLOWS TOWN!

BATMAN MELTS INTO GOTHAM'S NIGHT, UNAWARE HE IS FOLLOWED BY A PERTURBED PHANTOM CALLED... **DEADMAN!**

NOW I REALLY GOT THE **BAT GUY** INTO A JAM!

BUT I'VE GOT TO GET HIM TO TAKE THE WHITEY MARSH CASE ... SOMEHOW!

HEY, THAT CAR, RACIN'!!

GOT TO MOVE FAST--!

INTO THE **MASKED MANHUNTER'S** BODY DIVES THE FORMER HIGH-WIRE PERFORMER...

CRAAACK
KRASH
SPOK
SPEANG
SPANG
ZING
BINNNG
BEONG
BRAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT

A FUSILLADE OF LEAD...THEN VELVET SILENCE AGAIN...

WHEW! I REALLY SAVED BATMAN'S HASH THAT TIME! GUESS THAT MAKES US EVEN FOR ME GETTING HIM INTO TROUBLE--! OH-OH! ANOTHER CAR COMIN'!

NEXT INSTANT...

IN HERE, QUICKLY, SIR--!

HEY...?

IT'S I, ALFRED, SIR! LUCKILY I OBSERVED THAT SYNDICATE ATTEMPT TO ERASE YOU! YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?

ER... SURE, ALFRED! WHERE ARE WE HEADIN'?

WHY, HOME, SIR! IT'S THE ONLY SAFE PLACE AT A TIME LIKE THIS!

HOME?... ALFRED? TO WAYNE MANSION? IS BATMAN'S IDENTITY TO BE REVEALED TO DEADMAN...? PART II COMING UP.

SHORTLY...

HERE WE ARE, SIR! NOW YOU CAN BECOME BRUCE WAYNE AGAIN!

BRUCE WAYNE?! GREAT BLAZES, I'VE STUMBLED ONTO *BATMAN'S* REAL IDENTITY!

SO *BATMAN'S* THAT SPOILED, SUPER-RICH PLAYBOY...! EVEN BOSTON BRAND, A NO-ACCOUNT AERIALIST FROM A FLEA-BITTEN CARNY, HEARD OF *HIM!*

THAT TAPE RECORDER! MAYBE IT'S THE ANSWER TO MY SEARCH FOR MY KILLER... THE END OF THE TRAIL FOR... *HOOK!*

SOME MINUTES AFTER *DEADMAN* HAS EXITED FROM *BATMAN'S* BODY...

HUH? I'M HOME...BUT HOW? THE TAPE RECORDER ON PLAYBACK? MY OWN VOICE COMING FROM IT...?

LISTEN, BRUCE-BABY, PLEASE...'CAUSE YOU AIN'T HEARD NOTHIN' YET...!

THIS IS *DEADMAN* SPEAKING! ONCE I WAS CALLED BOSTON BRAND! I LIVED, BREATHED, TASTED LIFE'S JOYS AND HARD KNOCKS...

"AS *DEADMAN,* AERIALIST SUPREME, I DEFIED DEATH TWICE DAILY! I NEVER FIGURED HE'D COME FOR ME WITH A RIFLE...AND WEARIN' A *HOOK!*"

ARRRGGH!

"THE FALL I TOOK WAS ENOUGH TO KILL ANYBODY ...WITHOUT ADDIN' THE WEIGHT OF A .30 CALIBER SLUG TO IT...!"

I'M ALIVE... NOT DEAD! *ALIVE!*

"BUT I WAS WRONG... I *WAS* DEAD— AND YET AGAIN, I *WASN'T!*"

I CAN HEAR, SEE, THINK, FEEL ...AND STILL I'M JUST A PHANTOM ... A *GHOST!*

"BUT I WAS A GHOST WITH A DIFFERENCE!"

I, RAMA KUSHNA, SPIRIT OF THE UNIVERSE, GIVE YOU, BOSTON BRAND, THE POWER TO WALK AMONGST LIVING MEN UNTIL YOU FIND AND DESTROY YOUR OWN KILLER! SO BE IT!!

ANOTHER DEAD END...! IT'S HOPELESS! I'M BUSTIN' WITH HATE AND VENGEANCE TO FIND MY MURDERER ... BUT I CAN'T! I'M JUST A DUMBHEAD AERIALIST...I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH...!

"I TRIED TO FIND MY KILLER... THE GUY WITH THE HOOK! RAMA KUSHNA KNOWS HOW HARD I TRIED BUT ALWAYS FAILED... EVEN THOUGH I COULD BORROW THE BODIES OF OTHERS, EVEN AS I HAVE YOURS, *BATMAN!*"

THAT'S WHY I NEED YOU, ***BATMAN!*** YOU, THE WORLD'S GREATEST MANHUNTER, YOU GOTTA FIND MY KILLER!

FANTASTIC! ABSOLUTELY ASTOUNDING!

YEAH, YOU JUST GOTTA...!

NOW I KNOW WHO ***YOU*** ARE, ***BATMAN***... AND HOW YOU CAUGHT YOUR OWN PARENTS' KILLER! YOU DIDN'T LET THEM GO UNAVENGED! DON'T LET BOSTON BRAND'S MURDERER GET AWAY WITH IT... I BEG YOU!

DON'T LET ME BE A PHANTOM FOREVER, BATMAN! PLEASE, HELP ME... HELP-- SREEEEK!

THE END OF THE TAPE! AMAZING!... THAT SUCH A BEING AS ***DEADMAN*** EXISTS!

CLICK

THIS EXPLAINS EVERYTHING... THE MAN WHO ASSAULTED ME...MY LOSS OF MEMORY UNTIL I GOT HOME...! AND HE'S RIGHT... I CAN'T LET HIS DEATH GO UNAVENGED ... UNPUNISHED!

ALL RIGHT, *DEADMAN!* I KNOW YOU'RE HERE...! LISTEN! I'LL TAKE YOUR CASE... I'LL HELP YOU FIND YOUR KILLER!

HAH! GOOD MAN! SOMETIMES THERE'S HOPE ...FOR JUSTICE!

LATER, A ROLLS ROYCE LEAVES THE WAYNE MANSION...

HEY, WHERE WE GOING, BRUCIE-BABY? YOU AREN'T GOING MANHUNTING IN THAT MONKEY SUIT--? WHAT ABOUT MY KILLER?

I FIGURE YOU'RE HERE, FUMING, ***DEADMAN!*** RELAX! AS BRUCE WAYNE, I'VE A DINNER DATE AT CARLETON K. KAINE'S...! A DATE THAT COULD HELP YOUR CASE!

WOW! WHAT A PILE, ***BATMAN!***

XANADU, ***DEADMAN!*** KAINE'S LITTLE BUNGALOW! IT BEFITS ONE OF THE WORLD'S RICHEST MEN, NO?

MR. WAYNE? OKAY, PASS HIM IN! HE'S EXPECTED.

KAINE'S GOT THE MOST COMPLETE CRIME FILE IN THE COUNTRY! BEING UNSEEN AND UNHEARD, BOSTON, YOU CAN CHECK IT OUT ON WHITEY MARSH! I'D LIKE ANY INFO YOU CAN FIND--!!

GOOD EVENING, CARLETON...!

AAAH, BRUCE, WELCOME!

SO GLAD YOU CAME, OLD MAN! I'VE SO MUCH TO DISCUSS WITH YOU... ABOUT OUR CITY'S WELFARE AND FUTURE!

UGH! SOUNDS LIKE REAL FUN AND MERRIMENT! I'LL TAKE OVER THIS STIFF'S BODY AND CHECK OUT THIS TOMB!

MY PLEASURE, CARLETON!

MOMENTS LATER...

MAN, KAINE'S LOADED WITH INFO! GUESS BEING A DO-GOODER HE NEEDS IT--! REAL INTERESTIN' STUFF RIGHT HERE!

BRUCE, GOTHAM MUST BE SAVED! THE SYNDICATE IS CHOKING IT TO DEATH! GORDON AND ***BATMAN*** ARE BAFFLED--HOPELESS! THEY COULDN'T SOLVE A CROSSWORD PUZZLE!

WE'RE TWO OF A KIND, BRUCE...WEALTHY, EDUCATED, GIFTED! ARISTOCRATS, I MIGHT SAY! OUR BELOVED GOTHAM NEEDS US TO SAVE IT! HELP ME GET RID OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, GORDON, AND ***BATMAN!***

THIS IS IRONIC! IF CARLETON ONLY KNEW HIS HONORED GUEST ***IS...*** ***BATMAN!***

COFFEE, SIR?

C'MON, WAYNE... WE'VE GOT WHAT WE WANT, LET'S GO!

CARLETON, I ADMIRE YOU, BUT I'M NO REFORMER! I CAN'T JOIN YOUR CRUSADE! ALSO, I'VE A HUNCH ***BATMAN*** WILL CRACK THE SYNDICATE AND DETHRONE "THE KING" VERY SHORTLY!

SORRY TO HEAR THAT, BRUCE! I'D'VE LIKED YOUR HELP!

THE BUTLER... PASSING ME A NOTE...!

"FOUND NOTHING ON MARSH BUT PLENTY ON LE SABRE. ***D-MAN.***"

BUT NO HARD FEELINGS, OLD MAN! IF I MUST SAVE GOTHAM ALONE... SO BE IT! THANKS FOR LISTENING TO ME!

ON THE WAY HOME, ***DEADMAN*** INVADES ALFRED'S BODY...

SO LE SABRE ***IS*** CONNECTED TO THE SYNDICATE! GREAT WORK! WE'LL PAY HIM A VISIT AS ***BATMAN***...AND ***DEADMAN!***

NOT ON YOUR TINTYPE, BUSTER! IT'S ***HOOK*** WE'RE AFTER...THE KILLER OF BOSTON BRAND AND WHITEY MARSH, REMEMBER?

OKAY, BOSTON...I HEAR YOU!

THAT SLOUCH... I'D KNOW IT ANYWHERE! WILLIE PIGEON, THE STOOLIE! TIME TO SWITCH TO... ***BATMAN***

MOMENTS LATER...

MY WORD! I MUST'VE DOZED AT THE WHEEL!

MR. WAYNE... HE'S GOING! CHANGED TO ***BATMAN!*** I'LL CONTINUE HOME!

BATMAN! ***NO!***

I'LL...LOSE HIM... IN HERE...

BUT...

OH, NO! HE'S WAITING FOR ME!

THAT SUBWAY ENTRANCE! IF HE REACHES IT, THE *BAT GUY* WILL LOSE HIM!

I NEED YOUR BODY, OLD-TIMER... FAST!

HEY- UMPH!

TALK, WILLIE! YOU KNOW EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN THE GUTTERS OF GOTHAM!

WHAT ABOUT WHITEY MARSH? WHAT ABOUT HIS MURDER? SPILL, WILLIE... OR I'LL...

DON'T... PLEASE! MONK MANVILLE... NEW GOON FROM OUTA TOWN... SPENDING LOTS OF DOUGH... WORD IS, BIG JIM COLTRANE IMPORTED HIM TO ZAP WHITEY!

A *HOOK*, STOOLIE! DID HE HAVE A *HOOK*?

A HOOK? I DUNNO! I NEVER SEEN HIM... ONLY HEARDA HIM!

THE WITNESS...HE SAW A KILLER WITH A HOOK...!

EASY, ***DEADMAN!*** LET HIM GO! THESE HEADLINES...!

WELL, I'LL BE--! KAINE WASN'T KIDDIN'! HE'S REALLY OUT TO CLEAN UP THIS BURG... AND ***YOU*** WITH IT, ***BATMAN!***

NEWS

KAINE TO RUN FOR MAYOR ON REFORM TICK

VOWS CRIME, CORRUPTION MUST GO!

KAINE

BATMAN ASSAULTS CITIZEN! IS THIS GOTHAM'S GUARDIAN? HE, TOO, MUST GO!

BLAST IT! I SHOULD BE AFTER LE SABRE AND THE SYNDICATE BEFORE I GET HUNG UP ON THIS PHONY CHARGE THAT YOU CAUSED!

HOLD ON! IT'S BOSTON BRAND'S KILLER YOU PROMISED TO GET! DON'T COP OUT ON ME, MAN!

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, YOU CRAZY GHOST! GET OFF MY BACK!

WAIT! WILLIE JUST SAID BIG JIM COLTRANE HIRED MONK MANVILLE! GORDON INSISTS BIG JIM'S "THE KING"! MAYBE HE'S RIGHT! AND I THINK I KNOW HOW I CAN FIND HIM! LET'S GO!

AN EX-CON HELPS ***BATMAN*** LOCATE THE SUSPECTED KILLER...

FIRST DOOR ON THE LEFT, AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS...

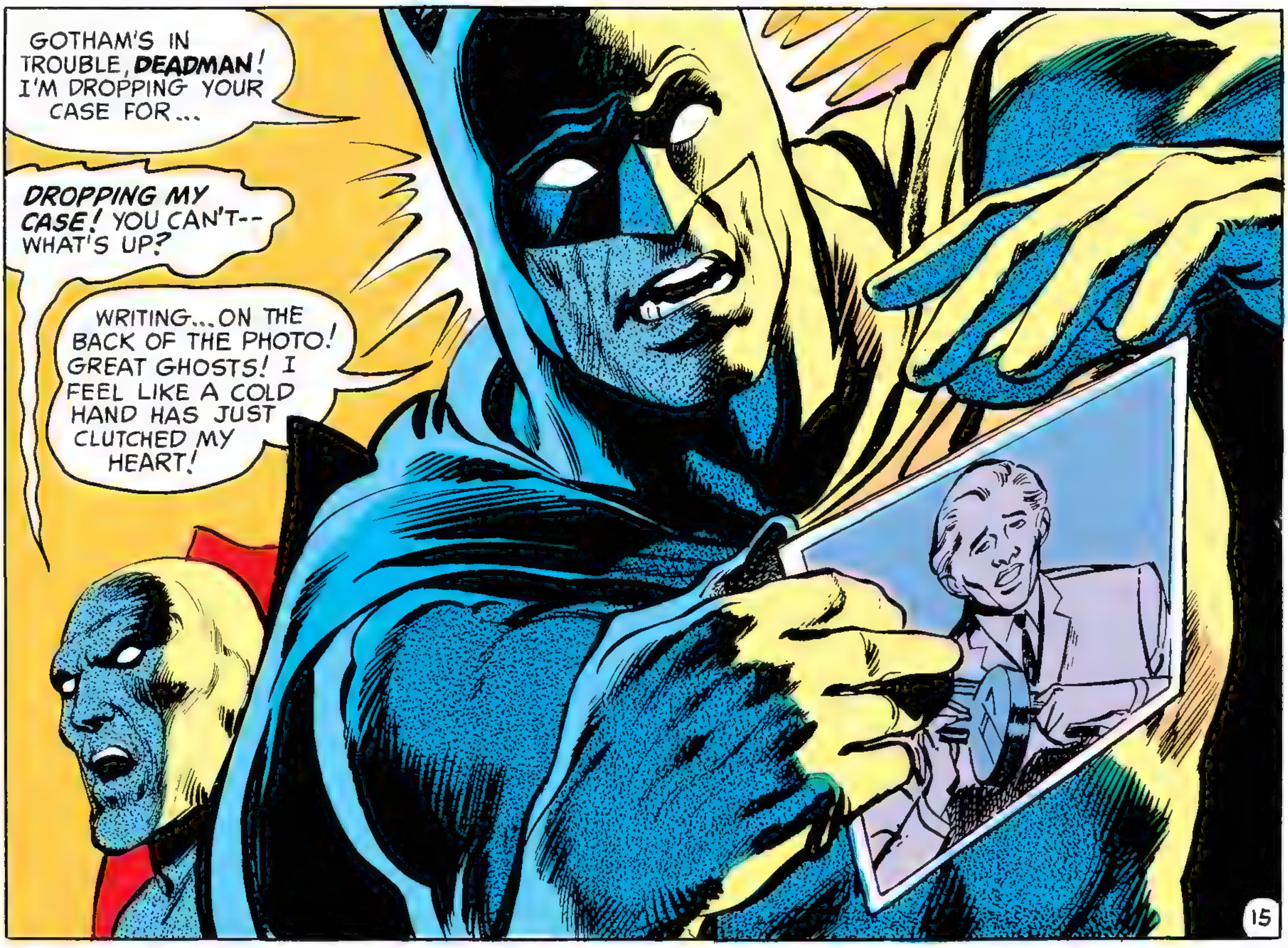
HE'S GONE... OUR BIRD'S FLOWN THE COOP! THE TRAIL'S COLD...! WHAT'S THAT, ***DEADMAN,*** IN THE CORNER...?

THIS PHOTO OF MONK! HE HAS NO ***HOOK!*** ***HEAR THAT, DEADMAN? NO... HOOK!***

GET IT, ***DEADMAN?*** IF MONK DID SHOOT MARSH, HE COULDN'T HAVE KILLED BOSTON BRAND! EVEN IF THAT WITNESS WAS WRONG ABOUT THE HOOK! SO WE'RE STYMIED ... NOWHERE!

THERE'S GOTTA BE AN ANSWER ...THERE ***MUST!***

HOOK! I'LL GET YOU YET... SOME-HOW... SOME WAY... YOU CAN'T CHEAT DEADMAN!


GOTHAM'S IN TROUBLE, DEADMAN! I'M DROPPING YOUR CASE FOR...
DROPPING MY CASE! YOU CAN'T-- WHAT'S UP?
WRITING...ON THE BACK OF THE PHOTO! GREAT GHOSTS! I FEEL LIKE A COLD HAND HAS JUST CLUTCHED MY HEART!
15

NOW ACROSS THE GOTHAM NIGHT SWINGS ITS FAMOUS GUARDIAN -- AND HIS ASTRAL COMPANION...

THIS IS CARLETON KAINE! I APPEAL TO ALL DECENT CITIZENS TO JOIN MY CRUSADE TO RID OUR CITY OF CORRUPTION, CRIME, AND INCOMPETENTS' LIKE COMMISSIONER GORDON AND BATMAN!

WOW! KAINE'S SURE SHAKIN' UP THIS BURG! AND SO ARE THE COPS! BUT WHAT'S WITH ***BATMAN?*** WHERE'S HE HEADIN'?

SHORTLY...

WHITEY MARSH'S GARAGE! ***BATMAN'S*** BACK ON MY CASE! GREAT... BUT ***WHY?***

GARA

WHITEY MARSH, PROP.

I CAN IMAGINE YOUR QUESTIONS, ***DEADMAN!*** ON THE BACK OF THAT PHOTO, MONK WROTE THE DATES HE MET WITH HIS PAROLE OFFICER...

HE HAD TO USE HIS ***REAL*** NAME... MAX CHILL! HE'S THE BROTHER OF THE MAN WHO KILLED MY PARENTS!

WELL, I'LL BE A SPOOK'S UNCLE!

MAX CHILL SWORE HE'D GET ME FOR CAUSING HIS BROTHER JOE'S DEATH! NOW I'VE GOT A REASON FOR STAYING ON MONK'S TRAIL... GOT TO GET HIM BEFORE HE GETS ME! WE'LL RE-CHECK WHITEY'S GARAGE! WHEN A GOOD DETECTIVE HITS A DEAD END, HE GOES BACK OVER THE SAME GROUND!

LET'S SEE WHAT THESE LEVERS DO!

LIFT

MAIN POWER

REAR LIGHTS

AUX

WHIRRRRRRKUNG

SHADES OF FU MANCHU! A HIDDEN ROOM... AND IT'S LOADED WITH *SLOT MACHINES!*

AND WE HIT THE JACKPOT! MARSH ***WAS*** CONNECTED TO THE SYNDICATE! KAINE WAS RIGHT!

NOW MAYBE WE'LL GET THE BIG PAY OFF... THE IDENTITY OF "THE KING"!

LAY OFF, ***BATMAN!*** IT'S ***HOOK*** WE WANT! ***HOOK*** ALIAS MONK MANVILLE ALIAS MAX CHILL!

WHAT'S THAT NOISE? SOMEBODY COMING!

OKAY, BUDDY-O, YOU GOT US THIS FAR! NOW I'LL TAKE OVER AND GET ***HOOK*** MYSELF!

HOLD IT, ***BATMAN!*** I BEEN WAITIN' A LONG TIME TO PAY YOU OFF FOR MY BROTHER JOE...!

IT'S CHILL... AND HE ***DOES*** HAVE A HOOK, OR I'M FLIPPIN' MY BIRD!

I NEVER THOUGHT IT'D BE THIS EASY! BREATHE YOUR LAST, BIG SHOT!

WHAT HAVE I DONE? I'M GETTING ***BATMAN*** KILLED!

HEY, THE HOOK... THE GUY WHO KNOCKED ME OFF HAD IT ON HIS ***LEFT*** HAND!

THIS AIN'T HIM... ***IT AIN'T HOOK!***

WITH ONE SWIFT MOTION, THE EX-AERIALIST WITHIN *BATMAN'S* BODY SCOOPS UP SOME COINS, AND...

SPANG

TANKLE

TINK

CHINK

HERE, CHILL... AND THAT'S NOT ALL YOU'RE GETTIN', LOW-LIFE!

HERE'S MY SUNDAY PUNCH! UMPHHH!

YOU MISSED, BIG MAN! NOW I'LL HOOK YOU INTO NEXT WEEK!

RIIIIIIIP

ARRRRRGHH!

AGGGG!

NEXT ONE IN YOUR GUTS!

SKAASSHH

GOT TO EXIT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...LET *BATMAN* HIMSELF HANDLE THIS CREEP!

HUH? WHAT'S HAPPENING? IT'S MANVILLE, ALIAS CHILL, SLASHING ME!

BEAUTIFUL, *BATMAN*, BEAUTIFUL!

WHOOMP

UH... THAT'S SOLID MUSCLE I'M HITTING! THIS GUY'S NO PUSHOVER!

KLANK

ONE LUCKY PUNCH AIN'T GONNA WIN THIS FIGHT, *HUH!*

HIS HOOK ...IT'S A *FAKE!!*

THE NEXT INSTANT, YANKED OFF-BALANCE BY THE HOOK...

WRANG

THE SLOTS! NO! NO-- AAAAGHHHH!

KAAARAAANG

HE'S BOUGHT IT..! CHILL... CAN YOU HEAR ME?

BEFORE I CHECK OUT, ***BATMAN***... GOTTA SQUARE THINGS! "THE KING" HAD ME KILL MARSH... HE WAS DOUBLE-CROSSING THE SYNDICATE!

HE HAD ME WEAR... PHONY HOOK... MAKE SURE SOMEBODY SAW THE ZAP... SO IT'D LOOK LIKE THE WORK OF SOME ... OTHER GUN!

I TRAILED YUH HERE, ***BATMAN***... AND PUT ON THE HOOK AGAIN... SO THE SAME GUY'D BE BLAMED...

CHILL! WHO IS "THE KING"? LE SABRE? BIG JIM COLTRANE? WHO--?

I DUNNO... I WAS HIRED BY ..."THE PAYMASTER" ... EASY LOANS ... EASY... LOANS...

UUUHHHH...

HE'S GONE...! THE CHILL BROTHERS ARE OUT OF MY LIFE... FOREVER!

SHORTLY AFTER PROWL CARS ANSWER *BATMAN'S* PHONE CALL...

SO CHILL WASN'T *HOOK*, AFTER ALL!

"THE KING" IS CUNNING...HE MUST'VE READ OF BOSTON BRAND'S MURDER...TRIED TO MAKE MARSH'S KILLING LOOK LIKE THE SAME MAN DID IT!

SOON, ACROSS TOWN...

EASY LOANS...THIS IS IT! CHILL SAID HE WAS HIRED BY "THE PAYMASTER," EVIDENTLY THE SYNDICATE'S PAYROLL MAN! CLEVER! WHO'D SUSPECT ANYONE LEAVING HERE WITH LARGE SUMS OF CASH?

EZ LOANS

BLAZES! "THE PAYMASTER"... HE'S BEEN ZAPPED...TOTALLY!

THE RECORDS ...ALL GONE! "THE KING'S" GETTING NERVOUS ...MUST KNOW WE'RE ON HIS TRAIL...!

WHAT'S THAT PAPER?

A PIECE OF A LEDGER BOOK PAGE...? THIS COULD BE IT... THE ANSWER TO *EVERYTHING!*

Sacred River Account

NOT LONG AFTER, A SKIFF SCULLS SILENTLY ON BLACK WATERS... CARRYING TWO PASSENGERS...TWO HUNTERS ENTERING A DARK DOMAIN...

"KUBLA" KAINE'S SET-UP? WHY'S *BATMAN* TAKING US THERE...?

WRITTEN ON THAT SCRAP..."SACRED RIVER ACCOUNT"...IT'S A CLUE! IN COLERIDGE'S POEM, "KUBLA KHAN"... THERE'S A PALACE, *XANADU*, WHERE "ALPH, THE SACRED RIVER RAN..."

WELL, CARLETON KAINE CALLS HIS PLACE ***XANADU***... AND THIS STREAM COULD BE HIS "SACRED RIVER"... MY HUNCH IS THAT THE ACCOUNT NAME IS CODE! GOOD THING HE DOESN'T HAVE GUARDS ON HIS "RIVER"!

HOPE I'M WRONG! ALTHOUGH KAINE'S BEEN AGAINST ***BATMAN***, I WAS ALWAYS SURE WE WERE ON THE SAME SIDE OF THE LAW!

MOMENTS LATER, INSIDE...

SIR, "PAYMASTER" HAS BEEN "DISCHARGED," AS YOU WISHED!

GOOD! WITH MY "REFORM" CAMPAIGN MOVING TO A CLIMAX, NO ONE MUST BETRAY MY SECRET ROLE AS ***"THE KING"!***

NO ONE BUT ME, KAINE!

BATMAN! YOU FOUND ME OUT!

OOPS, SECOND-CLASS BUTLER... NO MANNERS.

YOU HAD ME FOOLED FOR A LONG TIME, KAINE! I THOUGHT IT WAS LE SABRE!

SWOK

BATMAN WANTS ME TO COOL IT UNTIL HE GETS A FULL CONFESSION!

THAT PEASANT? JUST A COG IN MY SYNDICATE, AS WAS ***BIG JIM COLTRANE!***

NO, I ALONE CONCEIVED IT ALL...THE CRIME WAVE TO MAKE GOTHAM TURN TO ME AS ITS SAVIOR, THEN POLITICAL POWER TO GIVE ME ABSOLUTE CONTROL OF THE CITY!

BUT IT'S A SCHEME YOU'LL NEVER REVEAL TO ANYONE, ***BATMAN!*** I'VE JUST SUMMONED HELP! YOU'RE TRAPPED FOREVER... IN ***XANADU!***

SSSSK

NOW I'LL HAVE A LITTLE SPORT WITH THE GREAT ***BATMAN*** BEFORE I HAVE YOUR LIFELESS BODY BURIED A HUNDRED FEET BENEATH THESE STONES..!

YOU CAN'T EVADE THE SWORD OF A TRAINED SAMURAI FOR LONG, **BATMAN!**

HE'S RIGHT... NO MATTER WHAT BATMAN SAID, I'VE GOT TO TAKE OVER KAINE'S BODY... **WHOA... COMPANY!** GOTTA TAKE CARE OF THEM FIRST!

HEY, IT'S **BATMAN** WITH THE BOSS! **DRILL 'IM!**

HAIIII!

DEADMAN ENTERS THE BODY OF ONE OF THE THUGS AND...

MIKE, WHA...? OOMPH!

AHHHH! GLASS JAW! NOW TO GET RID OF THIS BODY AND HELP MY BAT-BUDDY!

CLOSE!

Y-YYA!

TWACK

WITHOUT PAUSE, **DEADMAN** HURLS HIS BORROWED BODY AT THE MARBLE WALL, KNOCKING IT OUT!

THEN, AS THE SWORDSMAN DRIVES THE **CAPED CRUSADER** BACK... BACK...

A TRAP OPENING UNDER ME...!

I'VE TIRED OF THE DUEL! THE GAME IS OVER...!

BUT BATMAN'S TRAINED REFLEXES SNAP INTO ACTION AND...

STAY BACK!!

NOT ON YOUR LIFE, KAINE! YOU'VE BEEN OUT OF MY REACH FOR TOO LONG ALREADY!

THE BUTLER... RECOVERED... TAKIN' A BEAD ON BATMAN...! GOT TO TAKE HIM OVER...!

LIKE A FLASH, DEADMAN HURLS HIMSELF AT THE WOULD-BE KILLER, RACING A HEARTBEAT OF TIME...

BLAM

TOO LATE! HE'S FIRED!!

BUT DEADMAN'S DESPERATE DIVE JARS THE GUN-MAN'S AIM JUST A HAIR ... AND...

BEEONG

AGGGG!

NOW THE GREAT ROOM ECHOES THE SILENCE OF DEATH...

YOU OKAY, BATMAN?

THANKS, BOSTON...! I'M OKAY!

ONCE IN XANADU, THERE LIVED "KUBLA" KAINE... "WHERE ALPH THE SACRED RIVER RAN... THROUGH CAVERNS MEASURELESS TO MAN..."

SO LONG, CARLETON... TOO BAD YOUR POWER MADNESS OVERTHREW A BRILLIANT BRAIN...!

THE NEXT DAY...

BATMAN BREAKS SYNDICATE

"KUBLA" KAINE DEAD! TONS OF EVIDENCE UNCOVERED

IT'S OVER, DEADMAN... IF YOU HADN'T PUSHED ME INTO LOOKING FOR MARSH'S MURDERER, I'D NEVER HAVE SAVED GOTHAM FROM HIS FANTASTIC PLOT...!

BUT I FAILED YOU... WE DIDN'T FIND YOUR KILLER...

LISTEN, ***DEADMAN***... MAYBE SOME OTHER TIME I'LL BE ABLE TO HELP YOU IF ANOTHER LEAD TURNS UP... I WON'T FAIL NEXT TIME...!

HEY! I CAN'T LET ***BATMAN*** GO ON THIS WAY! I'LL JUST HOP INSIDE HIM A SEC... AND...

NOW ONE MAN'S ARM SCRAWLS ANOTHER MAN'S MESSAGE... A MESSAGE FROM... A ***DEADMAN!***

ADIOS, ***DEADMAN!*** MAYBE SOME-DAY YOU'LL FIND YOUR KILLER, "THE HOOK"... AND PEACE!

NEXT TIME WE'LL GET HIM!! THANKS, BUDDY! ADIOS, DEADMAN

YES, MAYBE SOMEDAY ***DEADMAN*** WILL REACH THE END OF HIS FANTASTIC HUNT... AND PERHAPS ***BATMAN*** WILL BE THERE! BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY... ***NEVER, THE END!***

DON'T DIE, TINY!